

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205895
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 /030 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JRJOHNSON/FMLC
APPROVED BY EA/VLC:FZBROWN
EA/RA:MGELNER

-----101248 291717Z /53
O 291706Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205895

FOR THE CHARGE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR CHARGE

REF: STATE 202267

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING LISTS OF SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR EACH AMBASSADOR AND CHARGE WHICH WILL GUIDE MISSION FOR COMING YEAR. THE GOALS AND TASKS WE HAVE DEFINED FOR EMBASSY VIENTIANE ARE NECESSARILY MORE LIMITED THAN FOR MOST OTHER POSTS AS THEY REFLECT THE CURRENT TENUOUS STATE OF U.S.-LAO RELATIONS. WE HAVE DEFINED AS THE EMBASSY'S PRINCIPAL FUNCTION CONTINUED EXISTENCE IN LAOS AS A SYMBOL THAT THE U.S. WISHES TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND US AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE IN U.S.-INDOCHINA RELATIONS. TO OVERLOAD THE CIRCUIT WITH UNREALIZABLE OBJECTIVES WOULD PREJUDICE THIS PRINCIPAL GOAL OF OUR CONTINUED BILATERAL TIES WITH LAOS.

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2. WE HAVE IDENTIFIED BELOW WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT GOALS AND TASKS FOR THE EMBASSY IN THE CURRENT PERIOD OF OUR RELATIONS:

-- CONTINUE TO FUNCTION IN LAOS AS A SYMBOL OF OUR PRESENT INTEREST IN INDOCHINA AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO HAVE

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENTS OF INDOCHINA.
ADJUST INsofar AS FEASIBLE TO LOCAL CONDITIONS AND HOST
GOVERNMENT POLICIES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELA-
TIONS WITH THE NEW LAO GOVERNMENT ON A BASIS THAT IS AS
NEARLY "NORMAL" AS POSSIBLE.

--MAKE PLAIN TO THE LAO AUTHORITIES THAT THE FUTURE DE-
VELOPMENT OF US RELATIONS WITH THE INDOCHINA STATES WILL
BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY THEIR ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS
TOWARD THEIR NON-COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
REASSURE THE LAO AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY THAT THE USG HAS NO
HOSTILE INTENTION TOWARD LAOS OR THE OTHER INDOCHINA STATES
AND THAT WE ARE NOT SUPPORTING SABOTAGE OR RESISTANCE
ACTIVITIES IN LAOS.

--CONTINUE TO PRESS THE LAO GOVERNMENT ON THE ISSUE OF
CASUALTY RESOLUTION. UNDERLINE FOR THE LAO THE IMPORTANCE
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ATTACH TO OBTAINING AS FULL
AN ACCOUNTING AS POSSIBLE FOR OUR MISSING IN LAOS.

--SERVE AS A LISTENING POST IN INDOCHINA. REPORTING
PRIORITIES INCLUDE: ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US; LAO RELATIONS
WITH ASEAN STATES; RELATIONS AMONG LPDR, SRV, PRC AND
USSR; LAO-VIETNAMESE SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF
THAILAND; ACTIVITIES OF THE LAO RESISTANCE; LAO ATTITUDE
ON OPIUM PRODUCTION AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING; HUMAN RIGHTS
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SITUATION IN LAOS; LAO COMMUNIST PARTY; LAO ECONOMY.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: ABOVE LIST HAS BEEN CLEARED BY
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY. YOU WILL NOTE WE HAVE
PURPOSELY NOT INCLUDED GENERAL, UNIVERSAL GOALS SUCH AS
PROMOTING U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND PROVIDING CONSULAR
PROTECTION AND SERVICES. REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS AND ANY
ADDITIONS OR SUGGESTED CHANGES YOU MAY HAVE BY COB
SEPTEMBER 5 WASHINGTON TIME. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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